131 The Burgenland has some strange features. It is the youngest province of Austria, yet it claims to be one of the oldest. For a time it belonged to Hungary, and just during this period it held a brilliant position in Austrian intellectual life, boasting of such mighty names as Haydn and Liszt, Hyrtl [103] and Semmelweis. Its name is taken from three castles which no longer lie within its frontiers, but is justified by other castles as well. It is of considerable length—160 kilometres from North to South, corseted somewhere in the middle to a wasp-waist only four kilometres in diameter. Its plains are sparsely inhabited, while its mountain land is densely populated. It has a raw climate in the south, while in parts of its northern areas, the climate resembles that of Helwan in Egypt. Its frontiers with foreign countries are longer than its inland boundaries, yet it is Austrian to the core.

133 The inquiring stranger who has set out on a voyage of discovery should first drive by car along the Bundesstrasse to Bruck-on-the-Leitha and here turn off to the right into the Leitha mountains which in the centre separate the Burgenland from Lower Austria. From the summits of the mountains one looks down on to the Neusiedler Lake. Over 900 feet above the shining surface of the lake one finds oneself beneath sighing trees growing on what was once the bottom of a great sea. The sea itself, it is true, disappeared thousands of years ago, but the work of its maritime life remains in the form of rich deposits of mussel chalk. Walking along any forest path in the Leitha-gebirge one can easily trace in the stones the fossil forms of long vanished animals and plants.

When the tourist is weary of scientific research he can clear his brain in the sparkling Neusiedler Lake or with the no less inviting wine which ripens on its shores.

• 423 The plain to the north of the Neusiedler Lake was always one of vast estates. Between the scattered villages lie the dairy farms of the great landowners, who have their castles and manors in the villages. In Kittsee, Gattendorf and Halbturn there are many examples of baroque art. Lukas von Hildebrandt, Maulpertsch and others were commissioned to work there for the Magyar feudal landowners, Esterházy, Batthyány and so on.

133 Adjoining this countryside, the moor-land district, is tucked away on the eastern shores of the Neusiedler Lake a cloud-overcast and wind-harassed group of lakes. There are a number of warm and brackish little lakes, scattered over steppes of pronouncedly eastern character. Sea-sparwort, feathered grasses and copper-

9: Rothschild E-4, 5 (no date) 1947 EK1 Austria EK1

typically Austrian high-quality consumer goods industries. Between 1938 and 1942, the number of business enterprises in Austria declined from about 21,300 to 16,300, while the corresponding number in Germany increased from 337,000 to 353,000 over the same period.

The changes were less spectacular in agriculture. But many of the large estates belonging to the Church and the monasteries as well as State-owned land came into German ownership. Farmers who were in difficulties were not assisted but bought out and German "hereditary farmers" (*Erbhofbauern*) were settled in Austria. At the same time the sons of Austrian peasants were sent to Poland, Russia, and even to Bohemia and Moravia in order to "colonize" these areas. However, the changes in property relations were of less importance in the sphere of agriculture than the extreme regimentation of production and the system of forced deliveries which reduced the peasants to a state of serfdom.

It is too early as yet to give an exact picture of the effects of seven years of German domination on Austria's economy. Some major results are, however, clearly discernible.

First, it is clear that the Germans completely changed the economic structure of Austria. Austria's economy was wholly adapted to suit the needs of the German war machine. And since Austria, like Czechoslovakia, was for a long time the safest place from air attack in Hitler's *Festung Europa* it became one of the most important centres for the production of armaments. Heavy industry was greatly expanded. In Linz alone the Hermann Goering concern erected 320 coke ovens and 6 blast furnaces. In 1943, it was estimated that about 25 per cent of Germany's war industries had been concentrated in Austria.

On the other hand, many of the specifically Austrian